



From the Pastor

As cliché as it is to say, 2020 was quite a year! Normally our annual meeting would be the time to share, but knowing that many of you may not be able to be present on Zoom, I wanted to share some brief reflections about our five ministry areas with you here.

Congregational Life- This year forced a return to what is most central in our life of faith, worship. We found ways to worship online, outside, socially distanced, and over Zoom. Our music team brought tremendous creativity and we all found a renewed appreciation for the gift of worship. Preaching to the challenges of this year has been at times energizing and exhausting, but every step of the way your participation in worship has made it worthwhile. We spent a lot of time working to connect with as many of our members as possible, especially those who were unable to join us online. The pastor has never needed “aides” as much as I have this year! Thank goodness for our Pastor’s Aides to continue making monthly calls, sending cards, and sharing prayers. Although I spent a lot of time doing ministry online this year, I probably spent just as much time doing ministry with the reliable technology of the telephone and US Mail! Although many of our events were put on hold, we have found other ways to connect. Our online VBS was so sweet, just seeing the faces of their Sunday School teachers brought our kiddos a lot of joy. The Contemporary Issues class has continued to meet over Zoom and found that to be a great source of fellowship. From our virtual Advent study group, weekly online devotionals, and several Zoom fellowship events, we have continued to encourage one another. All of this has been fun, but we all are definitely longing for the days when we can return to in-person activities!

Finance - Your faithfulness and generosity saw us ending the year solidly in the black and enabled us to create a healthy budget to weather the twists and turns 2021 might bring. In the face of the unexpected death of our wonderful treasurer John Lampe, our financial leadership has stepped up to fill in the gaps and create a smooth transition. They are a great team to work with and if any of you have gifts in that area I know they would love to have a few more folks to share the load.

Church in the World- Your generosity allowed us to continue to invest in mission work in several important ways. We kept our food closet going strong, we were able to give financial donations to mission partners like Camp Hanover and Rise Against Hunger, and we kept our commitments to the Presbytery and PCUSA special offerings funds. We also saw our RISC justice ministry grow in amazing ways using technology to address important humanitarian needs of the Covid-19 crisis, such as advocating for the use of CARES funding for emergency eviction relief.

Facilities- While the building has been mostly empty this year, we have made some important safety and technology upgrades. Our security camera system was installed last fall, and we invested in important

Ash Wednesday & Lent

This month marks the beginning of the season of Lent, our time of preparation for the celebration of Easter. Lent is an important time of reflection in our Christian tradition, and we will be providing a variety of ways for you to be spiritually engaged.

- Ash Wednesday Drive Thru Prayer- Join us for a socially distanced Ash Wednesday on February 17th from 5:00-6:00 PM. Stay safely masked and in your car as you move through our three prayer stations enjoying scripture, music, and poetry to help you reflect on the season of Lent. Ashes will be available for you to apply yourself.
- Lent-in-a-Bag- We are creating Lent devotional bags for all of our Southminster members! Each bag includes a Lent devotional, a small candle, and other goodies to encourage you in your Lenten practice. Bags will be distributed at the Drive Thru Ash Wednesday Prayer event or available for pick up during office hours from Feb 15th to Feb 26th. If you do not drive and would like a Lent bag delivered to you, please call the church office.
- Lent Zoom Study- Rev. Deyerle will host a study group on Zoom each Sunday of Lent at 10 AM starting on Sunday the 21st. This study will follow the devotional booklet that you will receive in your Lent Bag- so even if you can't join us on Zoom you can study alongside us at home! Contact pastor@southpreschurch.org if you would like the Zoom link to attend the study.
- Lent for Families- We are creating special versions of our Lent Bags for families, so we hope you will come to our Ash Wednesday Drive Thru Prayer to participate as a family and receive your Lent Bags. Family bags will contain adult devotionals as well as activities designed for all ages to experience Lent together. Activities will be accompanied by video devotions for kids posted to the website each week.

Church in the World

Souper Bowl of Caring Drive Thru Food Drive

Join us Sunday, February 7th from 12:00-1:00 PM for a drive thru food drive! All donations and proceeds will go to support the Southminster CCHASM food closet that serves our neighbors in need every Tuesday and Thursday. Immediately following worship we invite you bring your donations to the church where our youth volunteers will collect all your canned and non-perishable goods from your trunk allowing you to stay safely in your car. If you have financial donations our volunteers will be happy to take that from you as well and place it in the soup pot for your favorite team!

RISC Team Meeting

RISC team members will meet February 7th at 1:00 PM, in a hybrid setting. There will be a ZOOM meeting, but for those who prefer not to use ZOOM, we will solicit your input via email. We will be putting together our lists of invitees for the Nehemiah Action Assembly, which will be March 23rd. As you may remember from last year, this is kind of like the NFL Draft: we go around the room and state our invitees' names, one at the time until each of us has a list of 6-7 names. You will be receiving more info via email.

Any SPC members or friends who would like to know more about RISC are asked to contact Shelley Murray at shelmurr@hotmail.com or at 804.837.8774. Our current projects address affordable housing and gun violence.

Supporting Southminster

2020 was definitely a year to remember! One lasting memory of 2020 was your financial support of Southminster which exceeded the budget by almost \$20,000. Truly a testament of your love and support of Southminster's ministry in a difficult time for everyone!

As a reminder there are many ways to support the church with your financial resources. On a regular or irregular basis or to fulfill your annual pledge you can write a check, use cash, donate stock or securities, or easily make a contribution online through your bank or credit union Bill Pay or through the church website. For those with qualified retirement accounts you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution directly from your IRA or 401K account and reduce your taxable income by that same amount. With the standard deduction so high this is a way to receive the equivalent of a tax deduction in addition to the standard deduction.

To leave a lasting legacy you can donate cash, stocks, or other assets to the church through your will. Another legacy route is through an endowment that will pay you an annual partially tax-free income for as long as you live. For more information on any of the above please contact the Finance Committee.

Facilities**New Covenant Items**

GOD WINKS is an event or experience whereby the only possible explanation is divine intervention or answer to a prayer. New Covenant's session and members definitely believe we have had GOD WINKS throughout this journey of closing our church.

Knowing it was our job to empty the contents of the church building, we began by developing an inventory of the items by room by room. Our first priority was to find homes for items with other churches and non-profit organizations. Items unwanted by churches and organizations would be offered to individuals we felt would make good use of the item. We were intent on being good stewards of the contents of the building and it seemed like a daunting task was ahead. We have been amazed at how God has "winked" and found unbelievable recipients of our treasures. This is a partial listing of items and new owners.

Southminster: Grand piano, Advent wreath (created by former member), art work, banners, children's handbells, sheet music, tables, outdoor furniture, office supplies, craft supplies and even tools!

Cumberland Presbyterian Church: Chairs and display rack

First Christian Church-Frostburg, Fla (former member church): Adult handbells, tables and music

Camp Hanover: Large outside bell, wood cross, bookcases, furniture, copier, pppliances

CARITAS: Furniture, kitchen items

Tool Bank: Metal chairs

RE-STORE: Dishes, Kitchen Items

CCPS: Wheelchair, art supplies, books, music for brass instruments.

SWIMRVA: Lectern

Member Studying Nursing: Reference books, BP cuff, stethoscope

Music Director of NC: Piano, music and stand

Gabriella Ryan's Student: Organ

The session hopes the spreading of the Good News will grow through these gifts now and in the future.

Judy Lee

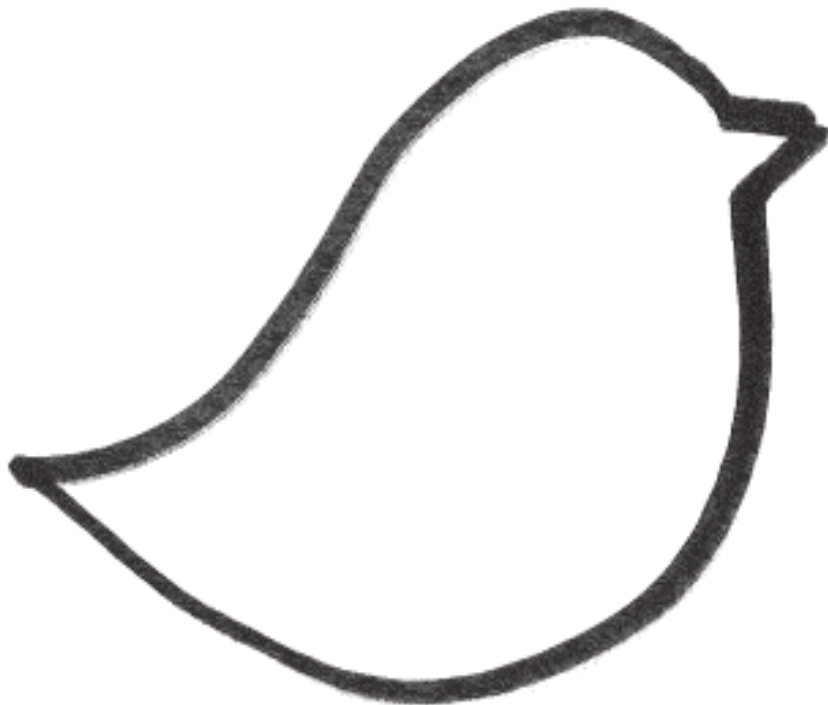
“Snuggled under God’s Wings”

Activity for Children from Traci Smith’s *Faithful Families*

This ceremony brings parents and children together at a time when a traumatic news story has affected the family. The beauty of this activity is that it gives children a space to talk about their feelings if they want to, but it does not demand that they speak at all. It also helps children to feel safe, protected, and sheltered.

Materials

1. Bird template (one for each child)
2. Scissors
3. Pen/pencil/crayons
4. Faux feathers and glue (optional)



How To

1. Invite children to the table for a special activity. Say, “Today you may have heard a little about [X event].” Describe the event that has happened in bare terms.
2. Say, “I want you to know that you are safe and protected. Sometimes I want to snuggle you up like a [Mommy/Daddy] bird! There is a verse in the Bible that says: ***[God] will cover you with [God’s] feathers, and under [God’s] wings you can hide*** [Ps. 91:4a, NCV]. Today we can remember that God wants to snuggle and protect us just like your parents snuggle and protect you.”
3. Hand out a bird outline to each child and give them time to decorate. While they are decorating, talk a little about what has happened (see Notes for suggestions).
4. At the end of the activity, write the Bible verse under each bird and hang them up somewhere in the house as a reminder to the children that they are safe.
5. Give the children hugs and snuggles and say, “You are like my baby birds and I will always do everything I can to make sure you are safe. I love you.”

Notes

- How you describe the event will depend on the children’s ages and what they have already heard. Use your instincts about what is necessary to share and err on the side of sharing less if you are unsure.
- Be sure to reassure children that they are safe. Encourage them to ask as many questions as they would like.
- If the event is catastrophic and likely to linger in the news for days or weeks, help children focus on good and positive things to do.
- For very young children, play “parent bird, baby bird.” Drape a blanket over your arms, as your “wings” allow children to run and hide under them. Scoop them up and give them hugs. Let the children be the mama or daddy bird.

Continued from Page 1

technology upgrades that allowed us to live stream from the sanctuary. The courtyard turned into the perfect spot to broadcast Easter Sunday worship and host our first socially distanced wedding and the gift of our outdoor chapel has never been so appreciated as it was this year!

I am looking forward to seeing more of you in-person in the building as this year unfolds. The session is monitoring the status of cases in the county and will work to return as soon as we are safely below our 10% testing threshold. The best way for you to help that happen is to be safe, wear a mask, and sign up to get your vaccine as soon as possible! Meanwhile, we have some great socially distanced Lent activities planned. I hope you will read more about them and find ways to join in!

Peace,



Remember in Prayer

Please pray for our military personnel, Bob Davis, Matt Davis, Mark Endries, Carolyn Griles, Bob Hall, Ann Kearns, Bev Lamberton, Alberta Lindsey, Shirley Martin, Jane McGee, Earl & Donna Medicus, George Reid, Adele Robertson, Billy Smith, Dave Thomas, Howard Vann, Ryan Witcher

Southminster Notes

On behalf of the family, I'd like to thank so many of you for the kind cards and generous donations after Mom's passing. Her faith and her church were always an important part of her life. And thanks also to those who called, visited and sent her cards over the past several years. She so appreciated knowing that she had not been forgotten even though she had not been able to attend church in person. May Christ's blessings be upon you.

*In Christ,
Kimberly Ruch on behalf of Dorothy Rippon's family*

My Southminster Family,

Thank you all for your prayers and support after my mom went to be with the Lord. She was a very special lady and always kept her love for the church strong. I appreciate you letting me have the service there. It just felt right.

David Collier

To My Southminster Family,

On behalf of my family and I, thank you for your cards, emails, and words of condolence at the passing of my mother. She was a single mom back in the 1960's and made many sacrifices for my sister and I.

Gary Miller

February Birthdays

- 1 Gina Taggart
- 4 Jim Davis
- 5 Meleana Grogan
- 7 Barbara Reid
- 10 Art Williams, Michael Willis
- 11 Lou Ann Daniel
- 12 Austin Smith, Jones Hollingsworth
- 19 Toni Briggs, Gregory Conrad
- 20 Kerry Knight
- 21 Wanda Carneal, Grady Osborne
- 22 Melinda Bookman
- 23 Dan Pharr, Barbara Jordanger
- 24 Anna Pinchbeck
- 26 Tracey Bowser

***Have we missed your birthday or anniversary?
Let the church office know: 804-276-1749.***

February Schedules

If you at any time are not comfortable with being physically present on your scheduled day, please notify your schedule's organizer.

Due to the evolving Covid-19 situation, some schedules may not apply if Sunday service is online only.

Food Closet

- 2 Gail DeCosta, Bonnie Kowalski
- 4 Shelley Murray, Mary Stahl
- 9 Terry Liendecker, Lyndale Baptist
- 11 Jane Tarter, Margaret Hall
- 16 Shelley Murray, Lyndale Baptist
- 18 Gail DeCosta, Bonnie Kowalski
- 23 Lyndale Baptist, Terry Liendecker
- 25 Jane Tarter, Mary Stahl

2021 Envelopes

Tithing envelopes for 2021 have arrived and are available in the church office. We are asking members to, if at all possible, come to the church to pick up their envelopes. You can call ahead to set up a time or just come by during our regular office hours.

Session Highlights

The session held their annual "retreat" on Saturday, January 16th on Zoom and completed the following business:

- Approved the transfer of membership of members from New Covenant to Southminster
- Approved the transfer of membership of Rose Dugger to Southminster
- Approved the transfer of membership of Gilly Bland and Ashley Delp to out of area churches
- Examined and approved incoming elders

Southminster Presbyterian Church

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6 PM: BSA Scouts	2 6:30 PM Girl Scouts 7:30 PM: IPCN	3 7 PM: Handbell Rehearsal	4 Food Closet	5 7:30 PM: IPCN	6 4 PM: LVS Dinner 7:30 PM: IPCN
7 Communion 11 AM: Worship 12 PM Souper Bowl of Caring Drive Thru 1 PM: RISC Team Zoom Meeting 3 PM: IPCN	8 6 PM: BSA Scouts	9 Food Closet 6:30 PM Girl Scouts	10 7 PM: Handbell Rehearsal	11 Food Closet	12 7:30 PM: IPCN	13 7:30 PM: IPCN
14 10:15 AM: Pastor's Aid 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN	15 6 PM: BSA Scouts	16 Food Closet 6:30 PM Girl Scouts	17 Ash Wednesday 5 PM: Ash Wednesday Drive Thru Service	18 Food Closet	19 7:30 PM: IPCN	20 7:30 PM: IPCN
21 10 AM: Lent Zoom Study 11 AM: Worship 1 PM: Session 3 PM: IPCN	22 6 PM: BSA Scouts	23 Food Closet 6:30 PM Girl Scouts	24 7 PM: Handbell Rehearsal	25 Food Closet	26 7:30 PM: IPCN	27 7:30 PM: IPCN
28 10 AM: Lent Zoom Study 11 AM: Worship 3 PM: IPCN						
		Notes				
		Disclaimer: Due to the evolving Covid-19 situation items on the calendar are subject to change, or may reflect standing events not currently meeting in person.				

SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

7500 Hull Street Road

N. Chesterfield, VA 23235-5810

Phone: 804-276-1749

www.southpreschurch.org

office@southpreschurch.org

Return Service Requested

February 2021



Ash Wednesday

Drive Thru Service

February 17th

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Details inside

Would you like to receive your newsletter electronically?

Send an email to office@southpreschurch.org with *Add Me To Newsletter List* in the subject line.

**Southminster Presbyterian Church
2020 Operating Budget**

	<u>2021 Budget</u>	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>Change</u>	
<u>Revenues</u>				
Contributions	\$ 279,544	\$ 341,567	\$ (62,023)	
Facilities Use	\$ 17,000	\$ 15,325	\$ 1,675	
Other Income	\$ 65,065	\$ 14,793	\$ 50,272	A
Total Revenues	\$ 361,609	\$ 371,685	\$ (10,076)	
<u>Expenses</u>				
Congregational Life				
Worship and Music	\$ 4,950	\$ 4,299	\$ 651	
Congregational Care	\$ 1,100	\$ 338	\$ 762	
Fellowship	\$ 3,410	\$ 1,123	\$ 2,287	
Christian Education	\$ 5,350	\$ 1,070	\$ 4,280	
	<u>\$ 14,810</u>	<u>\$ 6,830</u>	<u>\$ 7,980</u>	
Church in the World				
Hunger Mission	\$ 4,400	\$ 4,392	\$ 8	
Local Mission	\$ 8,600	\$ 9,462	\$ (862)	
World Mission	\$ 20,300	\$ 20,839	\$ (539)	
	<u>\$ 33,300</u>	<u>\$ 34,693</u>	<u>\$ (1,393)</u>	
Facilities	\$ 56,700	\$ 43,758	\$ 12,942	B
Finance				
Administration	\$ 28,000	\$ 26,786	\$ 1,214	
Stewardship	\$ 200	\$ 116	\$ 84	
Discretionary Funds	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,043	\$ (43)	
	<u>\$ 29,200</u>	<u>\$ 27,945</u>	<u>\$ 1,255</u>	
Leadership & Planning				
Personnel	\$ 227,049	\$ 214,918	\$ 12,131	C
Strategic Planning	\$ 550	\$ -	\$ 550	
	<u>\$ 227,599</u>	<u>\$ 214,918</u>	<u>\$ 12,681</u>	
Total Expenses	\$ 361,609	\$ 328,144	\$ 34,866	

A - Other income increase - unpledged contributions

B - Budget same as 2020 - underspent in 2020

C - Benefit holiday savings in 2020; Eniko left,
& staff wage increases for 2021

2020 Year End Report

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
15,000	Presbyterian Benevolences
4,000	Rise Against Hunger
3,125	CCHASM Hunger Mission
5,772	Food Closet
1,000	Foreign Missionary Support (Haiti Ministry)
839	RISC Partnership
500	Bainbridge Ministry
500	Camp Hanover
1093	Liberation Veteran Services
590	School Supplies Program
134	2nd Presbyterian Lunch Program
400	CARITAS
40	Manchester Middle Lunch Program
100	Cross Over Health Services
\$33,093	Budgeted Benevolences

* - \$10,000 from Emergency to Food Fund
in January 2020 by Session

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
10,414	Food Fund *
3,100	Disaster Relief Team
2,350	One Great Hour of Sharing
834	Five Cents Hunger
600	Haiti Missionary
873	Souper Bowl
630	School Supplies Fund
705	Joy Gift Offering
500	Pentecost Offering
33	Peace & Global Witness
235	CCHASM Gift
100	CCHASM - Thanksgiving Baskets
\$20,374	Congregational Donations
\$24,033	Scholarships Awarded

\$77,500	Total Giving
23.6%	Percent of Expenses